



# NEWS

## R E L E A S E

**RALPH T. HUDGENS**  
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE  
SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER  
INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMMISSIONER

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Seventh Floor, West Tower  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
[www.oci.ga.gov](http://www.oci.ga.gov)

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**Contact: Glenn Allen**  
**404-463-0729**  
**[gallen@oci.ga.gov](mailto:gallen@oci.ga.gov)**  
**Twitter: @GA\_DOI**

### **HUDGENS: STATE OFFERS TOLL-FREE ARSON HOTLINE**

**Atlanta --** Insurance and Fire Commissioner Ralph Hudgens wants to remind Georgians that the state has a toll-free arson hotline, 1-800-282-5804, sponsored by his office and the Georgia Arson Control Program.

Callers to the hotline will be eligible for rewards of up to \$10,000 if they provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of an arsonist. Callers and reward recipients may choose to remain anonymous, Hudgens said.

"We want to remind Georgians of this incentive to report any information they may have about a suspicious fire," Hudgens said. "In many cases, investigators rely on evidence provided by witnesses to convict an arsonist."

Since its inception in 1979, the Georgia Arson Control Board has approved 560 rewards totaling \$1,617,850. The average reward paid is \$2,889.

In 2013, arsonists cause \$1.68 million in property damage in Georgia.

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